

SANDBACH URBAN DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1904.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to read to you my 5th Annual Report.

Physical Feature and General Character of the District.

Sandbach is a very healthy Town situated on a sandy soil, with an area of 2693 acres, and a population at the last Census of 5556.

Death Rate.

The number of deaths in the District during the past year was 76, making an average of 13·6 per 1000. Of these 76, 20 were of children under 1 year of age. In 1903 there were 90 deaths, making an average of 16·19 per 1000.

Birth Rate.

There have been 136 births during the year, as compared with 170 in 1903, and 137 in 1902. Of these 136 births, 72 were boys, and 64 girls.

House Accommodation for Working Classes.

I am sorry to say that this is in excess of the demand. The inhabited houses are in good repair, the surroundings are healthy, with plenty of air space.

New Houses.

Three new houses have been erected in the District during the past year. All are connected with the sewerage system, and supplied with the Town's water.

Lodging Houses.

All have been inspected and were found clean, not overcrowded, and the walls and ceilings were well whitewashed.

Slaughterhouses.

Have been inspected, and found in clean good order. One new Slaughterhouse has been built at Brickhouses, and it has been kept in good order.

Ashpits and Closets.

These are emptied systematically by the Council's own men and carts. Many owners are putting in Water Closets.

Dairies and Milkshops.

The bulk of the milk produced in the neighbourhood is sold direct to Milk Factories. The milk consumed in the District is obtained direct from the Farmers, and delivered at the doors. The milk is good in quality, and the vessels are kept clean.

Cowsheds.

Have been visited, and found to be well ventilated, well drained, and clean.

Sanitary Alterations.

No alterations of importance have been necessary. Small defects in the present method have been attended to at once.

Nuisances

Have been few and far between. None of any importance have been reported.

Sewage Question.

The treatment and disposal of the Sewage of the District has received the serious consideration of the Council during the year, and a new scheme has been recently submitted to the Local Government Board for its approval, and the usual Local Government Board enquiry is expected to be held very soon.

Factories and Workshops.

I visit the Factories frequently as Certifying Factory Surgeon and specially, and have found them all clean and well whitewashed, ventilated, and the exits suitably situated in case of fire. The closet accommodation is ample and good. The Workshops have been visited; they are satisfactory both as to air, space, and cleanliness. There have been no new Factories or Workshops opened during the year.

Bakehouses.

There are nine in the District. All have been found to be healthy and well ventilated. None of them are underground.

Water Supply.

This is derived from an upland source, and treated by Clark's process. Is very pure, and both in quality and quantity would be hard to find fault with. There has been a 10-inch Main laid down, which will do away with any anxiety in dry weather as to the supply holding out, or danger of the supply being curtailed.

Isolation Hospital.

The conjoint Authorities, namely: The Congleton Rural, Congleton Borough, Alsager Urban, and Sandbach Urban Councils have under discussion plans for a new Isolation Hospital for those Districts.

Smallpox Hospital.

At Arclid. Is in good working order, and with plenty of accommodation for an emergency.

Meat Inspection.

Has been regularly attended to. No meat of an unsound nature or unfit for human food has been detected during the year.

Child Labour.

No prosecution has taken place under this heading.

Infectious Disease.

There have been 10 cases of Infectious Disease reported, as against 12 in 1903. Five were cases of Scarlet Fever, four Diphtheria, and one Enteric Fever. All the cases recovered. Disinfectants were supplied, and disinfection carried out under the direction and supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

Anthrax.

A case of Anthrax in a youth who worked as a Butcher at Levenshulme, and who came home to this District, was diagnosed and treated, and sent as soon as possible to Monsall Hospital, Manchester, where he recovered. The house was thoroughly disinfected, and every precaution taken to prevent any spread of the disease, which efforts were attended with success.

School Closure.

The District was again visited with a severe epidemic of Measles. The epidemic began mainly at the Infant Department of the Sandbach Commons School, and on learning that there were 67 children away from School out of 132, I took the usual steps and advised that the School be closed for 28 days, dating from the 3rd of March. On the 17th of March, there being 53 children away from the Infant Department of the Wesleyan School on account of Measles, I also advised that that School should be closed for a period of 14 days, and I am glad to say that on the School resuming after the holidays there were very few cases.

Yours faithfully,

R. RIDDELL,

Medical Officer of Health.

Sandbach Urban District.



Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1904.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.						
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and up- wards.
Small-pox							
Measles	7	4	3				
Scarlet Fever							
Whooping Cough	1	1					
Diphtheria and Membranous Croop							
Croop							
Fever { Typhus							
Enteric							
Other continued							
Epidemic Influenza							
Cholera							
Plague							
Diarrhœa	1	...	...	...	...	1	
Enteritis	2	2					
Puerperal Fever							
Erysipelas							
Other Septic Diseases							
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	4	...	1	...	2	1	
Other Tubercular Diseases							
Cancer, Milignant Disease	4	...	...	...	...	2	2
Bronchitis	4	...	2	...	...	...	2
Pneumonia	7	4	...	...	...	2	1
Pleurisy							
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs							
Alcoholism							
Cirrhosis of Liver }	2	...	...	...	...	2	
Venereal Diseases							
Premature Birth	2	2					
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition							
Heart Diseases	8	...	...	...	...	4	4
Accidents							
Suicides	1	...	...	...	...	1	
Senile Decay	12	...	...	...	...	...	12
All other causes	21	6	4	...	1	8	1
All causes	76	20	10		3	21	22

THE SANDBACH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Sanitary Inspector's Report, 1904.

During the year ended December 31st, 1904, the full staff of workmen have been employed as in previous years, and an equal amount of money has been expended in scavenging and cleansing the Town.

Anthrax.

A case of this fell disease was brought into the district by a butcher from the neighbourhood of Manchester. As soon as the nature of his malady was discovered, he was sent away to Manchester and treated most successfully by experts, and is now fully recovered. Vigorous measures were at once adopted. All the clothing and bedding that had been in contact with him were burned, the paper stripped from the walls, the rooms fumigated with brimstone, disinfectants freely used, and the house thoroughly cleaned. Happily no further case has occurred.

Bakehouses.

These have been inspected. The sanitary conditions are good. No communication with living or sleeping rooms. The ventilation and light good. Water is obtained directly from the Council's mains, and none of them are situate in cellars.

Dairies and Milkshops.

The Dairies from which the Town's milk supply is obtained are chiefly in the country. The milk is brought in tankards, and delivered directly to the consumer. Very little is stored in Milkshops. The Cowsheds are limewashed periodically, are kept clean, and the water supply is ample.

Houses.

Three new houses have been erected in the district during the year. All are on the water main and are connected with the public sewers, and are fitted with modern sanitary appliances. There are still about 50 empty houses in the district, mainly cottages. As the population has decreased during the last decade we have a surplus of cottages, 1302 only being occupied.

Canal Boats.

These have been visited, and two cases of infectious disease were discovered. The boat cabins were fumigated with brimstone, the clothing thoroughly disinfected, and the boats well cleaned out.

Infectious Diseases.

Several cases of Scarletina and Diphtheria have occurred. The rooms have been stoved, the walls stripped, the clothing disinfected, disinfectants used, and the rooms washed out with carbolic soap, and the walls well limewashed.

House Refuse Removal.

This, as in previous years, has had continuous attention. 10,800 visits have been paid to remove nightsoil. 613 tubs of liquid manure have been collected and sold—value £76 16s. 6d. Over 4260 visits have been paid to remove ashes, &c., and 1700 loads of refuse have been carted away. The storage of ashes has always been a difficulty with us, especially in confined situations. A number of owners have fitted their houses with dust bins or boxes. This of course necessitates a weekly visit to empty the boxes. This change, though an improvement on the old system, adds considerably to the cost of scavenging.

Lodging Houses.

These have been inspected, duly limewashed, better out-office accommodation provided, the rooms attended to, and the places kept clean. Owing to scarcity of employment only a few people of the common lodging house class have used the houses, and no case of infectious disease has been reported in them.

Small Pox.

Though the surrounding districts have had cases of this dreaded disease, fortunately for us we have been free. Two young men came into the district from a town in Lancashire, and from lodgings where a case of Small Pox had occurred. Enquiries were made, and it was discovered that on arrival here they both went to the doctor, were vaccinated, and remained a short time under his supervision, and no further development has since taken place.

Meat Inspection.

This has been carried on in conjunction with a Consultation Committee. One Tuberculous carcase has been discovered and destroyed, but no proceedings taken, as it was not exposed for sale for food.

Sewage Disposal.

This question is still under consideration. The scheme prepared a year ago was not approved by the Local Government Board, and in response to strong pressure from the County Council and the Local Government Board, an Engineer of experience has been called in to advise the Council in the matter. W. Wyatt, Esq., of Leamington, who designed and carried out the construction of our Waterworks, has prepared a scheme for the purification of the sewage. Should this prove as satisfactory as the Waterworks undertaking, the Town will be well served.

Slaughterhouses.

These are well supplied with water, are limewashed, and kept clean. The manure and garbage are taken away to land outside the Town.

Water Supply.

In the matter of water supply we are very fortunate. The district contains 1352 houses; 56 of these are in isolated situations away from the pipe line, 57 have water from their own wells approved by the County Analyst, and 1229 are supplied by the Council. During the year when many Towns had to curtail supply, ours never failed us; all we found it necessary to do was to issue a notice against the waste of water. Owing to the large quantity of oxide of iron in the crude water, a good deal of sediment deposits in the gravitating main, thus obstructing the flow of water and increasing the friction in working, a new 10-in. Duplicate Gravitating Main is being put in, so that we can clean out the main without interrupting the supply of water, and are provided with a second main in the event of a breakdown, and it is hoped that when the larger main is got to work the friction will be reduced, and an economy effected in working. The water as supplied averages 5.2 degrees of hardness.

Water Closets and Privies.

A number of old Privies have been taken down and re-built, and others repaired during the year, and in a number of instances Washout Closets have been put in; thus a better service has been obtained.

Workshops.

These have been inspected, the linewashing done, in some the ventilation has been improved. The sanitary arrangements are made for both sexes, and the rooms are clean. They are mostly lofty, and ample room is provided for the workers.

AMOS WOOD,

December 31st, 1904.

Sanitary Inspector.

